

# Weekly Views

**Be informed about the Indiana Department of  
Correction**

*"No pessimist ever  
discovered the secret of the  
stars, or sailed to an  
uncharted land, or opened a  
new doorway for the human  
spirit." ~ Helen Keller*

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

During the Agency Leadership Symposium at the Adam's Mark Hotel this week, Commissioner Buss presented bicycles, school supplies, backpacks, and monetary donations totaling over \$30,000 from the "Kids Can't Wait" campaign to The Villages. PEN Products work release offenders were also on hand to fill the backpacks with supplies.

United Kingdom Shadow Minister of Justice Nicolas Herbert and his Chief of Staff Blair Gibbs recently visited the Reception Diagnostic Center, Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facility, Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility, and Correctional Industrial Facility in order to gain insight into Indiana's correctional system and the programs available to offenders.

Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility welcomed representatives from Purdue's Noble County Master Gardeners Club. After introductions, offender volunteers and club members assembled cookbooks for the master gardeners' upcoming fundraiser.

Dr. Charles Sutton, the Fatherhood and PREP Grants Federal Project Officer, recently visited Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility. Dr. Sutton toured the facility and watched as the Reading with Dad and Me program was conducted.

Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility held a GED graduation ceremony for 22 students this week. For the fiscal year 2008-2009 so far, the facility has graduated 41 students, with 3 of those students having earned an honors diploma.

30 PEN Products offenders received their U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Certificates at Pendleton Correctional Facility. The offenders had completed their on-the-job training and required class work while working in the PEN operation.

Agents and Supervisors from Parole District #3 in Indianapolis collaborated with Marion County Probation, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, and Indiana State Police to conduct a city-wide sweep. As a result, 4 arrests were made. PD #3 also conducted a Lever-Pull meeting with Marion County Community Corrections, with 33 parolees attending.

29 offenders interacted with their children during the Putnamville Correctional Facility's annual "Day with Dad" event. Children and fathers enjoyed games, refreshments, and magic tricks performed by Correctional Officer Joseph Browning.

Staff and offenders of the Indiana Women's Prison Outreach Program made and donated a total of 300 hats, scarves and mitten sets to the Centenary Christian Church who sponsors the Mitten Tree for under privileged children.

Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted an Inside/Out Dad Graduation ceremony this week for 16 offenders.

Dr. Bill Bruinsma and Chuck Whetstone, along with St. Joseph County staff and Tom Applegate of CMS, visited Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility to conduct a follow-up review of the facility, which was ordered last fall by Probate Judge Peter Nemeth. The committee commended IJCF on the improved education system and monitoring of the student social culture.

14 students from DePauw University toured Putnamville Correctional Facility for a Corrections and Prisons in America class.

This week, Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility hosted Marion County Court Judges for a group discussion and tour of the facility. The Judges were very impressed with the facility, the programs available, and the residents.

The Christian Motorcycle Association's Fall Worship Service will be held this weekend at the Indiana Women's Prison. After the service the CMA will hold a bike show while taking the opportunity to minister to the offender population.

Branchville Correctional Facility's INshape committee and education department sponsored an American Red Cross Blood Drive. A record number of donors participated in the event to help resupply the blood bank.

Madison Correctional Facility opened a 10-bed work release center this week for women from southeast Indiana.

*From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner*